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Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554
AUG 19 1998

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AUG 19 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Daniel D. Rymarz
9816 N. Sunrise Circle
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

Dear Mr. Rymarz:

Thank you for your letter to President Clinton regarding a "telephone tax" or fee that may be added to some consumers' telephone bills by carriers to recover their contributions to the universal service support mechanisms. The White House has asked me to respond to your inquiry.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted a first Report and Order to implement the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations on universal service as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). The Commission established universal service support mechanisms that fulfill Congress's goal, as stated in section 254 of the 1996 Act, of ensuring that affordable, quality telecommunications services are available to all American consumers, including low income consumers and those located in high cost, rural, and insular areas. In addition, these mechanisms implement Congress's mandate to ensure the nation's classrooms and libraries receive access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network. These support systems also will link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access, through the telecommunications network, to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are enjoyed in urban communities.

The 1996 Act requires all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services to contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to universal service. The Commission implemented this statutory provision by requiring all such telecommunications carriers to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. Neither Congress, nor the Commission, requires such carriers to pass this contribution on to their customers. To the contrary, carriers decide how and to what extent they recover their contributions. Carriers, however, may not mislead customers as to how they recover contributions and may only recover an equitable share from any particular customer.

The Commission is monitoring the universal service support mechanisms and their impact on telephone ratepayers. This issue will be carefully reviewed as the support mechanisms are administered.

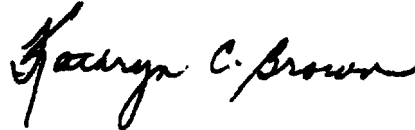
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Mr. Daniel D. Rymarz

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Your letter has been placed in the official public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). I appreciate your interest and views on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathryn C. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping underline.

Kathryn C. Brown
Chief
Common Carrier Bureau

From nobody@www2.whitehouse.gov Tue Jun 9 23:24:54 1998
Date: Tue, 09 Jun 1998 23:23:10 -0400
From: "Daniel D. Rymarz" <drymarz@worldnet.att.net>
Subject: Inbound-White House WWW MAIL => PRESIDENT
Apparently-to: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
To: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
Errors-to: The Postmaster <postmaster@www2.whitehouse.gov>
Reply-to: "Daniel D. Rymarz" <drymarz@worldnet.att.net>
Message-id: <199806100323.XAA10103@www2.whitehouse.gov>

Keywords: WWW-Correspondence; ; Register disagreement with a position; No
Answer; No Answer;
Comments: Forwarded from White House WWW
Comments: This message scanned by SCAN version 0.1 jms/960226

[Connection Information]

CLIENT: 171.phoenix-03.az.dial-access.att.net[12.64.117.171]
BROWSER: Mozilla/2.0 (compatible; MSIE 3.02; Update a; AK; Windows 95)
URL: http://www2.whitehouse.gov/WH/Mail/html/Mail_President.html

[Sender Information]

PERSONAL-NAME: Daniel D. Rymarz
EMAIL-ADDRESS: drymarz@worldnet.att.net
ORGANIZATION:
RELATIONSHIP:
STREET-ADDRESS: 9816 N. Sunrise Circle
CITY: Fountain Hills
STATE-PROVINCE: AZ
ZIP-CODE: 85268
COUNTRY: USA

[Message Information]

PURPOSE: Register disagreement with a position
TOPIC: No Answer
AFFILIATION: No Answer
SUBJECT: long distance phone bill & sur charge

[Message]

I would like to know what right the Government has to impose
a "hidden tax" on my long distance phone bill without
receiving a vote in Congress. It appears that the Vice
President has forgotten this is a Democracy and we do not rule
by "Divine Right". Although, by myself I can do very little to
stop this unfair and unauthorized use of my money, I can speak
to others about this underhanded approach to finance "pet
projects". I will endeavor to tell at least three other voters